

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

It is asserted that these amendments do not add new matter and are supported by the specification and claims as originally filed. Entry of these claims is respectfully requested.

Claims 25-49 have been rejected.

Claims 25-36 have been canceled.

Claims 41 and 47 have been amended.

Claims 37-40, 42-46, and 47-49 are kept unchanged.

Claims 37-49 are pending in the application.

Obvious typos have been fixed in amended claims 41 and 47

Claims 25-49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over any of Takahashi et al. (U.S. 5,536,448) or Morrison et al. (U.S. 6,433,068) or Okumura et al. (U.S. 5,451,632).

The instant claimed invention relates to a process for protecting a rubber composition against UV radiation, comprising the step of adding to said composition a protecting amount against UV radiation of titanium dioxide particles having an average size of at most 80 nm and at least partially coated with a layer of at least one metal oxide, hydroxide or oxohydroxide.

The Examiner agrees that Okumura and Morrison fail to mention the average size of at most 80 nm of the titanium dioxide particle.

Applicants respectfully submit, as already set forth in the previous amendment of September 30, 2003, that the use of such particles in a process for protecting a rubber composition against UV radiation, is neither described, nor suggested by Okumura and

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**AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL AND NOTICE OF APPEAL**

Morrison. That process is indeed the object of the outstanding pending claims 37-49.

However, the Examiner seems to have been completely silent on that particular point in his Office Actions of April 01, 2003 and December 30, 2003.

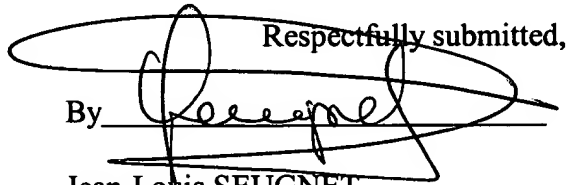
For these reasons, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner now reconsider and withdraw the rejection of 25-49 under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over any of Takahashi et al. (U.S. 5,536,448) or Morrison et al. (U.S. 6,433,068) or Okumura et al. (U.S. 5,451,632).

In view of the preceding remarks, it is asserted that the patent application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any question concerning these remarks that would further advance prosecution of the claims to allowance, the examiner is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned agent at (609) 860-4180. A notice of allowance is respectfully solicited.

April 28, 2004

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RN98116.Final.Amend

Respectfully submitted,  
  
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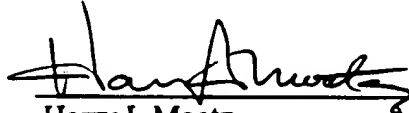
**BEFORE THE OFFICE OF ENROLLMENT AND DISCIPLINE  
UNITED STATE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

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**Expires: November 19, 2004**

  
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Harry I. Moatz  
Director of Enrollment and Discipline